

## SOME IRRATIONAL QUARTIC THREEFOLDS

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*Dedicated to the late Professor Bumsig Kim*

**ABSTRACT.** We study the factoriality of a nodal quartic hypersurface  $V_4$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  when there is a hyperplane in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  containing all the nodes of  $V_4$ . As an application, we obtain new examples of irrational quartic 3-folds.

All considered varieties are assumed to be projective, normal, and defined over the complex number field  $\mathbb{C}$ .

### 1. Introduction

A variety is called factorial if every Weil divisor on it is Cartier. This innocent definition is quite subtle when realized on a projective variety. It does depend both on the kind of singularities and on their position. Note that a smooth hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  is always factorial. A hypersurface is called nodal if all its singular points are only ordinary double points, i.e., nodes. The factoriality problem of a nodal hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  has been considered by several authors for a long time [3–6, 17, 22–24, 28].

We will restrict ourselves to the case where the degree of hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  is 4. Let  $V_4 \subset \mathbb{P}^4$  be a nodal quartic hypersurface. Then the Grothendieck-Lefschetz theorem [16, Chapter IV, Corollary 3.3] says that Cartier divisors on  $V_4$  are restrictions of Cartier divisors on  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , i.e., that  $\text{Pic } V_4 \cong \mathbb{Z}[\mathcal{O}_{V_4}(1)]$ . However, no such result holds for  $\text{Cl } V_4$ , where  $\text{Cl } V_4$  denotes the class group of  $V_4$ , namely the group of linear equivalence classes of Weil divisors. More precisely, since  $V_4$  is projectively normal and nonsingular in codimension 1, the restriction map

$$\text{Cl } \mathbb{P}^4 \longrightarrow \text{Cl } V_4$$

is an isomorphism precisely when  $\text{Cl } V_4 = \text{Pic } V_4 = \mathbb{Z}$ . In this case we say that  $V_4$  is factorial. In general, we have

$$\text{Cl } V_4 = \text{Pic } V_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}^\delta,$$

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where the number  $\delta$  is the defect of  $V_4$ . From the equivalent condition (3) in Section 2, the defect is a global topological invariant that measures how far  $V_4$  is from being factorial, or, in other words, to what extent Poincaré duality fails on  $V_4$ . A lot of the birational geometry of singular varieties depends on the factoriality condition. For instance, Mella proved in [24] that every factorial nodal quartic 3-fold is irrational. In particular, the rationality of a nodal determinantal quartic 3-fold is due to the lack of factoriality and not to the presence of singularities [24].

**Example 1.1** ([25]). Every general determinantal quartic 3-fold is nodal, non-factorial, rational, and it has 20 nodes.

Results of [24] generalize a classical result by Iskovskikh and Manin [18] that all smooth quartic 3-folds are irrational.

There exist non-factorial irrational nodal quartic 3-folds in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  [4, Theorem 11].

**Theorem 1.1.** *If  $V_4 \subset \mathbb{P}^4$  is a sufficiently general quartic 3-fold that contains a smooth del Pezzo surface  $S_4 \subset \mathbb{P}^4$  of degree 4, then  $V_4$  is nodal, non-factorial and irrational, and has  $\#\text{Sing}(V_4) = 16$ .*

For a given variety, it is one of the most essential questions to decide whether it is rational or not. This question has been considered in depth for smooth 3-folds [1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 18, 19, 25–27, 29]. This is why it is important to study the factoriality of a nodal quartic hypersurface  $V_4$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ .

*Remark 1.1.* Every quadric 3-fold in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  is rational. Clemens and Griffiths showed that a smooth cubic 3-fold is irrational [10, Theorem 13.12]. Every nodal hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  of degree at least 5 is irrational.

The following theorem is the main result in the paper [4] by Cheltsov.

**Theorem 1.2.** *A nodal quartic  $V_4$  is factorial if it has at most 9 nodes and contains no planes.*

Theorem 1.2 has been improved.

**Theorem 1.3** ([28, Theorem 1.3]). *A nodal quartic  $V_4$  is factorial if it has at most 11 nodes and contains no planes. If  $V_4$  has 12 nodes, then  $V_4$  is factorial with the exception of the case when  $V_4$  contains a quadric surface.*

**Theorem 1.4** ([17, Theorem 1.3]). *A nodal quartic  $V_4$  is factorial if it has at most 13 nodes and contains neither planes nor quadric surfaces.*

Examples 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1 and Lemmas 3.3, 3.4 enable us to propose the conjecture below.

**Conjecture 1.1.** *A nodal quartic  $V_4$  is factorial if it has at most 16 nodes, does not contain any of planes, and quadric surfaces, and (possibly singular) del Pezzo surfaces of degree 4.*

In this paper, we prove the following.

**Theorem 1.5.** *Assume that there is a hyperplane in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  containing all the nodes of a nodal quartic  $V_4$ .*

- (1) *If  $\#\text{Sing}(V_4) > 20$ , then  $V_4$  is not factorial;*
- (2)  *$V_4$  is factorial if  $\#\text{Sing}(V_4) \leq 20$ , and  $V_4$  contains neither planes nor quadric surfaces.*

**Corollary 1.1.** *A nodal quartic  $V_4$  is irrational if it has at most 20 nodes, contains neither planes nor quadric surfaces, and there is a hyperplane in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  containing all the nodes of  $V_4$ .*

**Corollary 1.2.** *Assume that there is a hyperplane in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  containing all the nodes of  $V_4$ . Then Conjecture 1.1 is true.*

*Proof.* The statement immediately follows from Theorem 1.5.  $\square$

*Remark 1.2.* A nodal quartic  $V_4$  cannot have more than 45 nodes [15, 30]. Moreover, there is a unique nodal quartic 3-fold with 45 nodes [12]. It is known as the Burkhardt quartic, which has too many nodes to be factorial. In fact, if  $V_4$  is factorial, then it must have at most 35 nodes because  $h^0(\mathbb{P}^4, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^4}(3)) = 35$  (This immediately follows from the equivalent condition (4) in Section 2).

## 2. Preliminaries

Let  $V_d$  be a nodal hypersurface of degree  $d$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  given by the equation

$$h(x, y, z, t, w) = 0 \subset \mathbb{P}^4 \cong \text{Proj}(\mathbb{C}[x, y, z, t, w]),$$

where  $h$  is a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $d$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Then it is well-known that the following conditions are equivalent [9, 13, 16]:

- (1)  $V_d$  is factorial;
- (2) the quotient ring

$$\mathbb{C}[x, y, z, t, w] / \langle h(x, y, z, t, w) \rangle$$

is a unique factorization domain;

- (3)  $\dim H_4(V_d, \mathbb{Z}) = \dim H^2(V_d, \mathbb{Z})$ ;
- (4) the nodes of  $V_d$  impose independent linear conditions on homogeneous forms of degree  $2d - 5$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  (global sections of  $H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^4}(2d - 5))$ );
- (5) any surface in  $V_d$  is the complete intersection of  $V_d$  with a hypersurface of  $\mathbb{P}^4$ .

From the equivalent condition (2), we present some non-factorial hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ .

**Example 2.1.** Let  $V_d$  be a nodal hypersurface of degree  $d > 1$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4 \cong \text{Proj}(\mathbb{C}[x, y, z, t, w])$  given by the equation

$$xf(x, y, z, t, w) + yg(x, y, z, t, w) = 0,$$

where  $f$  and  $g$  are general homogeneous polynomials of degree  $d-1$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Then  $V_d$  has exactly  $(d-1)^2$  nodes and contains the plane  $\pi$  defined by  $\{x = y = 0\}$ . Hence, by the condition (5),  $V_d$  is not factorial.

**Example 2.2.** Let  $V_d$  be a nodal hypersurface of degree  $d > 2$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4 \cong \text{Proj}(\mathbb{C}[x, y, z, t, w])$  given by the equation

$$xf(x, y, z, t, w) + (yz + tw)g(x, y, z, t, w) = 0,$$

where  $f$  and  $g$  are general homogeneous polynomials of degree  $d-1$  and  $d-2$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , respectively. Then  $V_d$  has exactly  $2(d-1)(d-2)$  nodes and contains the quadric surface  $U$  defined by  $\{x = yz + tw = 0\}$ . Hence, by the condition (5),  $V_d$  is not factorial.

Now, we present a factorial nodal quartic hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  which contains neither planes nor quadric surfaces. In particular, there is a hyperplane in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  containing all the nodes of this nodal quartic 3-fold.

**Example 2.3.** Let  $S$  be a nodal quartic surface in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ . Then  $\#\text{Sing}(S) \leq 16$ . Suppose that  $S$  is given by the equation

$$f(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3) = 0$$

for some quartic homogeneous polynomial  $f$ . Here  $x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3$  are coordinates on  $\mathbb{P}^3$ . Since we have  $h^0(\mathbb{P}^3, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(3)) = 20$ , one can find a cubic homogeneous polynomial  $h(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3)$  that vanishes at every nodes of the surface  $S$ . Consider the quartic hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  that is given by the equation  $g(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = 0$ ,

$$g(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) := x_4 h(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3) + \alpha f(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3),$$

where  $\alpha$  is a general complex number, and  $x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$  are coordinates on  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . By Bertini theorem, this quartic 3-fold has exactly  $s$ ,  $s = \#\text{Sing}(S)$ , nodes, which we can identify with the nodes of the surface  $S$  contained in the hyperplane,  $\{x_4 = 0\}$ . Furthermore, one can show that this quartic 3-fold is nodal. If we take a general element of the pencil, this nodal quartic contains neither planes nor quadric surfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ . Then, by Theorem 1.5(2), this nodal quartic is factorial, and hence, by Corollary 1.1, this nodal quartic is irrational.

### 3. Useful tools

Let  $V_d$  be a nodal hypersurface of degree  $d$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . From the equivalent condition (4) in Section 2, the factoriality of  $V_d$  is strongly related to the number and the position of its singularities. For instance, if  $V_d$  is factorial, then the number of nodes of  $V_d$  cannot exceed  $h^0(\mathbb{P}^4, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^4}(2d-5))$ . Furthermore, we see that the nodes of  $V_d$  are located in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  with the following nice properties.

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $V_d$  be a nodal hypersurface of degree  $d$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ .*

- (1) *A curve of degree  $k$  contains at most  $k(d-1)$  nodes of  $V_d$ .*

- (2) If a 2-plane contains  $\frac{d(d-1)}{2} + 1$  nodes of  $V_d$ , then the plane is contained in  $V_d$ .

*Proof.* See [6, Lemma 2.9].  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2.** Let  $V_d$  be a nodal hypersurface of degree  $d$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , let  $\Xi_{d,i} = \text{Sing}(V_d) \cap \text{Sing}(S_i)$ , where  $S_i$  is an irreducible surface of degree  $i$ , and let  $\#\Xi_{d,i}$  be the cardinality of  $\Xi_{d,i}$ . If  $S_i$  contains  $\frac{id(d-1)}{2} - 2\#\Xi_{d,i} + 1$  nodes of  $V_d$ , then  $S_i \subset V_d$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $V_d$  is given by the equation

$$h(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = 0 \subset \mathbb{P}^4 \cong \text{Proj}(\mathbb{C}[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4]),$$

where  $h$  is a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $d$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Then the singular locus of  $V_d$  is contained in a general hypersurface  $V'_d =: \{\sum \alpha_i \frac{\partial h}{\partial x_i} = 0\}$  of degree  $d-1$  with  $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{C}$ . Because  $V_d$  has only isolated singularities,  $S_i \cap V'_d$  is a curve of degree  $i(d-1)$ . Assume that  $S_i \not\subset V_d$ . Then  $S_i \cap V'_d \not\subset V_d$ . Note that the intersection number of the hypersurface  $V_d$  and the curve  $S_i \cap V'_d$  is  $id(d-1)$ , and the curve  $S_i \cap V'_d$  is singular at the points of  $\text{Sing}(V_d) \cap \text{Sing}(S_i)$ . Therefore,  $S_i \cap V'_d$  cannot meet  $V_d$  at more than  $\frac{id(d-1)}{2} - 2\#\Xi_{d,i}$  points of  $\text{Sing}(V_d)$ .  $\square$

Also, the following theorem is an application of the modern Cayley-Bacharach theorem as stated in [14].

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $\Gamma$  be a subset of a zero-dimensional complete intersection of hypersurfaces  $X_{d_1}, X_{d_2}, \dots, X_{d_N}$  of degree  $d_i \geq 1$  in  $\mathbb{P}^N$ , and let  $\#\Gamma$  be the cardinality of  $\Gamma$ . Then the points of  $\Gamma$  impose dependent linear conditions on homogeneous forms of degree  $\sum_{i=1}^N d_i - N - 1$  in  $\mathbb{P}^N$  if and only if the equality  $\#\Gamma = \prod_{i=1}^N d_i$  holds.

*Proof.* See [23, Theorem 2.6].  $\square$

Let  $V_d$  be a nodal hypersurface of degree  $d$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Recall that if the hypersurface  $V_d$  is factorial, then, for a surface  $S_r \subset V_d$  of degree  $r$ , there is a hypersurface  $F \subset \mathbb{P}^4$  such that  $S_r$  is a complete intersection of  $V_d$  and  $F$ , so that in particular the degree  $r$  of a surface  $S_r$  in  $V_d$  is a multiple of  $d$ . Thus, if a surface is contained in  $V_d$  and the surface is not a complete intersection of  $V_d$  with another hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , then  $V_d$  is not factorial. More precisely, for a nodal quartic hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , we have the following three results, i.e., Lemma 3.3, Example 3.1, and Lemma 3.4. The first result is that a non-factorial nodal quartic hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  contains a surface of degree  $r$ ,  $r \neq 4k$  with  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , in a hyperplane in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , and, in the other two cases, a non-factorial nodal quartic hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  contains a non-degenerate irreducible surface of degree  $r$ ,  $r = 3, 4$ , in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  which is not the complete intersection of  $V_4$  with a hypersurface of  $\mathbb{P}^4$ .

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $V_4$  be a nodal quartic hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . If  $V_4$  contains a surface  $S_r$  of degree  $r$ ,  $r = 1, 2$ , in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ , then  $S_r$  contains at least  $3r(4-r)$  points of  $\text{Sing}(V_4)$ , and  $V_4$  is not factorial.*

*Proof.* Suppose that, for  $r = 1, 2$ ,  $V_4$  is given by the equation

$$h_1 f_3 + u_r g_{4-r} = 0 \subset \mathbb{P}^4,$$

where  $h_1, f_3, u_r$  and  $g_{4-r}$  are homogeneous polynomials of degree 1, 3,  $r$  and  $4-r$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , respectively. Then  $V_4$  contains the surface,  $S_r := \{h_1 = 0\} \cap \{u_r = 0\}$ , in  $\mathbb{P}^3 \cong \{h_1 = 0\}$ . Because  $V_4$  has only ordinary double points as singularities, for any point  $s \in \text{Sing}(V_4)$ , four hypersurfaces  $\{h_1 = 0\}$ ,  $\{f_3 = 0\}$ ,  $\{u_r = 0\}$  and  $\{g_{4-r} = 0\}$  meet transversally at the point  $s$ . Therefore,  $V_4$  has at least  $3r(4-r)$  nodes, and  $S_r$  contains at least  $3r(4-r)$  nodes of  $V_4$ . Let  $\Lambda =: \{h_1 = 0\} \cap \{f_3 = 0\} \cap \{u_r = 0\} \cap \{g_{4-r} = 0\}$ . Then  $\Lambda \subseteq \text{Sing}(V_4)$ . Because  $\Lambda$  is a zero-dimensional complete intersection of four hypersurfaces of degree 1, 3,  $r, 4-r$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , the points of  $\Lambda$  impose dependent linear conditions on cubic forms on  $\mathbb{P}^4$  by Theorem 3.1. This implies that the points of  $\text{Sing}(V_4)$  impose dependent linear conditions on cubic forms on  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Thus,  $V_4$  is not factorial by the equivalent condition (4) in Section 2.  $\square$

**Example 3.1.** The Hirzebruch surface  $\mathbb{F}_1 = \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(1))$  is isomorphic to the blow-up of  $\mathbb{P}^2$  along a point. Consider the blow-up of  $\mathbb{P}^2$  at one point  $p$ , giving exceptional divisor  $E$ . Then the intersection ring on  $\mathbb{P}^2$  is given by  $\mathbb{Z}[H, E]/H^2 = 1, HE = 0, E^2 = -1$ . We can understand divisors and sections of divisors in terms of divisors on  $\mathbb{P}^2$  with certain multiplicities in  $p$ . Let's consider the divisor class  $2H - E$ . This corresponds to conics in  $\mathbb{P}^2$  through the point  $p$ , which gives a five-dimensional vector space. It separates points and tangent vectors. Therefore, we get an immersion of  $\mathbb{F}_1$  into  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Also, its degree is  $(2H - E)(2H - E) = 3$ , and hence we obtain a cubic surface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . More precisely, consider the smooth cubic surface  $S_3$  given parametrically as the image of the map

$$\nu : \mathbb{P}^2 \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^4$$

which assigns to the homogeneous coordinate  $[x : y : z]$  the value

$$\nu : [x : y : z] \mapsto [x^2 : y^2 : xy : xz : yz].$$

Equivalently, the cubic  $S_3$  is a projective variety, defined as the zero locus of three irreducible quadratic hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Given the homogeneous coordinates  $[A : B : C : D : E]$  on  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , the cubic  $S_3$  is the zero locus of the three homogeneous polynomials

$$AB - C^2 = 0, CE - BD = 0, AE - CD = 0.$$

Let  $V_4$  be a nodal quartic hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  given by the equation

$$(AB - C^2)f_2 + (CE - BD)g_2 + (AE - CD)h_2 = 0,$$

where  $f_2, g_2$ , and  $h_2$  are general homogeneous polynomials of degree 2 in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Then  $V_4$  has exactly seventeen nodes and contains the smooth cubic surface

$S_3 \cong \mathbb{F}_1$ , where  $\mathbb{F}_1$  is a rational normal scroll. Because the cubic  $S_3$  cannot be written as the complete intersection of  $V_4$  with another hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , the quartic  $V_4$  is not factorial.

**Lemma 3.4.** *Let  $V_4$  be a nodal quartic hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . If  $V_4$  contains a complete intersection surface  $S_4$  of two quadratic hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , then  $S_4$  contains at least 16 points of  $\text{Sing}(V_4)$ , and  $V_4$  is not factorial.*

*Proof.* Assume that  $V_4$  is given by the equation

$$h_2 f_2 + u_2 g_2 = 0 \subset \mathbb{P}^4,$$

where  $h_2, f_2, u_2$  and  $g_2$  are quadratic homogeneous polynomials in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Then  $V_4$  contains the surface,  $S_4 := \{h_2 = 0\} \cap \{u_2 = 0\}$ . Because  $V_4$  has only ordinary double points as singularities, for any point  $s \in \text{Sing}(V_4)$ , four hypersurfaces  $\{h_2 = 0\}$ ,  $\{f_2 = 0\}$ ,  $\{u_2 = 0\}$  and  $\{g_2 = 0\}$  meet transversally at the point  $s$ . Therefore,  $V_4$  has at least 16 nodes, and  $S_4$  contains at least 16 nodes of  $V_4$ . Let  $\Sigma =: \{h_2 = 0\} \cap \{f_2 = 0\} \cap \{u_2 = 0\} \cap \{g_2 = 0\}$ . Then  $\Sigma \subseteq \text{Sing}(V_4)$ . Because  $\Sigma$  is a zero-dimensional complete intersection of four quadratic hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , the points of  $\Sigma$  impose dependent linear conditions on cubic forms on  $\mathbb{P}^4$  by Theorem 3.1. This implies that the points of  $\text{Sing}(V_4)$  impose dependent linear conditions on cubic forms on  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Thus,  $V_4$  is not factorial by the equivalent condition (4) in Section 2.  $\square$

*Remark 3.1.* Example 3.1 and Lemma 3.4 tell us that the statement of Lemma 3.2 is not sharp when a nodal quartic hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  contains a non-degenerate surface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ .

To prove the factoriality of a nodal quartic hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  with at least 14 nodes, the following two lemmas are very helpful.

**Lemma 3.5.** *Let  $V_4$  be a nodal quartic hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  with*

$$14 \leq \#\text{Sing}(V_4) \leq 20.$$

*Suppose that there is a hyperplane in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  containing all the nodes of  $V_4$ , and the quartic  $V_4$  contains a non-degenerate irreducible surface  $S_k$  of degree  $k$  such that  $S_k \neq V_4 \cap F$ , where  $F$  is a hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Then one of the following holds;*

- (1)  $V_4$  contains a plane;
- (2)  $V_4$  contains a quadric surface;
- (3) there is a cubic hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  containing the surface  $S_k$ .

*Proof.* From the statements (1), and (2), we assume that the quartic  $V_4$  does not contain planes and quadrics. Note that, by our assumption, the quartic  $V_4$  is not factorial. Suppose that  $V_4$  is given by the equation

$$f_4(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = 0 \subset \mathbb{P}^4 \cong \text{Proj}(\mathbb{C}[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4]),$$

where  $f_4$  is a homogeneous polynomial of degree 4 in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Then, assume that there is a unique hyperplane, say  $H_1$ , in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  containing all the nodes of  $V_4$ ;

otherwise, if there is a hyperplane, say  $H_2$ , in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  that is different from  $H_1$  and contains all the nodes of  $V_4$ , then, by Lemma 3.1(2) and  $\#|\text{Sing}(V_4)| \geq 14$ , the quartic  $V_4$  must contain the plane,  $H_1 \cap H_2$ . Since  $h^0(\mathbb{P}^4, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^4}(3)) = 35$ , and  $\#|\text{Sing}(V_4)| \leq 20$ , there is an irreducible cubic hypersurface, say  $Z_3$ , in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  containing all the nodes of  $V_4$ . Now, let  $\tilde{f}_4 := h_1 z_3 + f_4$ , where  $h_1$ , and  $z_3$  are homogeneous polynomials of degree 1, and 3 in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , respectively, such that  $H_1$  is defined by the equation  $h_1 = 0$ , and  $Z_3$  is defined by the equation  $z_3 = 0$ , and let  $\tilde{V}_4$  be defined by the equation  $\tilde{f}_4(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = 0$ . Here  $\tilde{f}_4$  is general in the pencil. Then,  $V_4$ , and  $\tilde{V}_4$  have the same nodes, i.e.,  $\text{Sing}(V_4) = \text{Sing}(\tilde{V}_4)$ . This implies that  $V_4$ , and  $\tilde{V}_4$  are not factorial at the same time, and then we claim that the cubic  $Z_3$  contains the surface  $S_k$ , i.e.,  $V_4$  ( $\tilde{V}_4$ , respectively) contains the surface  $S_k$  of degree  $k$  such that  $S_k$  is not the complete intersection of  $V_4$  ( $\tilde{V}_4$ , respectively) with a hypersurface of  $\mathbb{P}^4$ ; by the equation  $h_1 z_3 + \alpha f_4 = 0$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ , we have at least 1-dimensional family, say  $\mathcal{F}_4$ , of nodal quartic hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  such that an element of  $\mathcal{F}_4$  has the same nodes as the quartic  $V_4$ , and it is defined by the equation of the form  $h_1 z_3 + \alpha f_4 = 0$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ . Let  $F_4 \in \mathcal{F}_4$ . Then we have  $\text{rank Pic}(F_4) = \text{rank Pic}(V_4) = 1$ . By the statements (1), and (2), we assume that  $F_4$  and  $V_4$  contain neither 2-planes nor quadric surfaces, and then, by [20, Theorem 1.1] and [21, Remark 11], we have  $\text{rank Cl}(F_4) \leq 6$  ( $\text{rank Cl}(V_4) \leq 6$ , respectively), where  $\text{Cl}(F_4)$  ( $\text{Cl}(V_4)$ , respectively) is the group of Weil divisors on  $F_4$  ( $V_4$ , respectively). Moreover, by [21, Remark 9], the degree of generators of  $\text{Cl}(F_4)/\text{Pic}(F_4)$  ( $\text{Cl}(V_4)/\text{Pic}(V_4)$ , respectively) is at most 10. Suppose that the quartic  $V_4$  contains surfaces,  $\{S_{d_1}, \dots, S_{d_r}\}$ ,  $r \leq 5$ , of degree  $d_i \leq 10$  such that each surface  $S_{d_i}$  is not hypersurface section, and  $S_{d_i}$  is a non-degenerate irreducible surface. Then, since  $\text{rank Cl}(V_4) = \text{rank Cl}(F_4)$ , and  $\dim \mathcal{F}_4 \geq 1$ , we assume that  $F_4$  contains surfaces,  $\{W_{d_1}, \dots, W_{d_r}\}$ ,  $r \leq 5$ , of degree  $d_i \leq 10$  such that each surface  $W_{d_i}$  is not hypersurface section, and  $W_{d_i}$  is a non-degenerate irreducible surface of degree  $d_i$ , i.e.,  $\deg(S_{d_i}) = \deg(W_{d_i})$ . Now, suppose that  $S_{d_i} \neq W_{d_i}$ , i.e.,  $W_{d_i} \not\subset V_4$ . Then, by the equation  $h_1 z_3 + \alpha f_4 = 0$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ , we have  $H_1 \cap W_{d_i} \subset H_1 \cap F_4 = H_1 \cap V_4$ , and hence the space curve  $C_{d_i} := W_{d_i} \cap H_1$  is contained in the quartic  $V_4$ . However, by our assumption,  $W_{d_i}$  is not contained in the quartic surface,  $H_1 \cap V_4$ , and hence we have  $C_{d_i} = (W_{d_i} \cap H_1) \cap V_4 \neq W_{d_i} \cap (H_1 \cap V_4) = E_{4d_i}$ , where  $C_{d_i}(E_{4d_i})$ , respectively) is a curve of degree  $d_i(4d_i)$ , respectively). This yields a contradiction.  $\square$

*Remark 3.2.* In the proof of Lemma 3.5, since the quartic  $V_4$  is not factorial, by the equivalent condition (4) in Section 2, and  $\#|\text{Sing}(V_4)| \leq 20$ , the dimension of the system,  $|\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^4}(3) - \text{Sing}(V_4)|$ , is at least 16, and hence we see that there is at least 16-dimensional family of cubic hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  containing the surface  $S_k$ .

**Lemma 3.6.** *Let  $V_4$  be a nodal quartic hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  with*

$$14 \leq \#|\text{Sing}(V_4)| \leq 20.$$



Suppose that there is a hyperplane in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  containing all the nodes of  $V_4$ , and the quartic  $V_4$  contains a non-degenerate irreducible surface  $S_k$  of degree  $k$  such that  $S_k \neq V_4 \cap F$ , where  $F$  is a hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Then one of the following holds;

- (1)  $V_4$  contains a plane;
- (2)  $V_4$  contains a quadric surface;
- (3)  $k = 3$ , and  $S_3$  is a 2-fold rational normal scroll in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ ;
- (4)  $k = 4$ , and  $S_4$  is a (possibly singular) del Pezzo surface of degree 4;
- (5)  $k = 6$ , and  $S_6$  is the complete intersection of an irreducible cubic hypersurface and an irreducible quadratic hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ .

*Proof.* By the statement (1), we assume that the quartic  $V_4$  contains no planes. Then there is a unique hyperplane  $H_1$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  containing all the nodes of  $V_4$ . Also, by Lemma 3.5, we assume that there is a cubic hypersurface  $Z_3$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  containing the surface  $S_k$ . Note that  $S_k$ ,  $k \leq 10$ , is a non-degenerate surface. Then, by Remark 3.2, we divide into two cases.

Suppose that  $S_k = V_4 \cap Z_3 \cap A_n$ , where  $A_n$  is a hypersurface of degree  $n$ ,  $n = 2$  or  $n = 3$ , in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Then the nodal quartic  $V_4$  is defined by an equation of the form  $h_1 z_3 + a_n b_{4-n} = 0$ , where  $H_1$  is defined by the equation  $h_1 = 0$ , and  $Z_3$  is defined by the equation  $z_3 = 0$ , and  $A_n$  is defined by the equation  $a_n = 0$ , and  $b_{4-n}$  is a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $4 - n$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  such that the intersection points of  $\{h_1 = 0\}$ ,  $\{z_3 = 0\}$ ,  $\{a_n = 0\}$ , and  $\{b_{4-n} = 0\}$  are singular points of  $V_4$ . In this case, the quartic  $V_4$  contains the plane,  $\{h_1 = 0\} \cap \{b_1 = 0\}$ , or the quadric surface,  $\{h_1 = 0\} \cap \{b_2 = 0\}$ .

Now, suppose that  $S_k = V_4 \cap Z_3 \cap A_n \cap C_m$ , where  $C_m$  is a hypersurface of degree  $m$ ,  $m = 2$  or  $m = 3$ , in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ ; otherwise, if the surface  $S_k$  is the intersection of  $V_4$  with four or more hypersurfaces of  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , then one can prove in the same way. Then the nodal quartic  $V_4$  is defined by an equation of the form  $h_1 z_3 + a_n b_{4-n} + c_m d_{4-m} + e_4 = 0$ , where  $C_m$  is defined by the equation  $c_m = 0$ , and  $d_{4-m}$  is a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $4 - m$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  such that  $S_k \subset \{h_1 z_3 = 0\} \cap \{a_n b_{4-n} = 0\} \cap \{c_m d_{4-m} = 0\}$ , and  $\text{Sing}(V_4) \subset \{h_1 z_3 = 0\} \cap \{a_n b_{4-n} = 0\} \cap \{c_m d_{4-m} = 0\}$ , and  $e_4$  is a quartic homogeneous polynomial in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  such that  $S_k \subset \{e_4 = 0\}$ , and  $\text{Sing}(V_4) = \text{Sing}(\{e_4 = 0\})$ . The existence of the equation,  $e_4 = 0$ , follows from the proof of Lemma 3.5. Then, for the value  $n$ , we divide into two subcases.

If  $n = 3$ , then, assume that  $V_4$  contains no planes; otherwise, the quartic  $V_4$  contains the plane,  $H_1 \cap B_1$ , where the hyperplane  $B_1$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  is defined by the equation  $b_1 = 0$ . Then, by Lemma 3.1(2) and  $\#|\text{Sing}(V_4)| \geq 14$ , we have  $\#|(\text{Sing}(V_4) \cap \text{Sing}(A_3)) \setminus B_1| \geq 8$ . Since  $H_1 \cap \text{Sing}(A_3) \subset \text{Sing}(H_1 \cap A_3)$ , we have  $\#|\text{Sing}(V_4) \cap \text{Sing}(H_1 \cap A_3)| \geq 8$ . Also, since a nodal cubic surface has at most 4 nodes, the cubic surface,  $H_1 \cap A_3$ , must be reducible. In this case, we divide into two subcases. Suppose that  $H_1 \cap A_3 = \pi \cup S_2$ , where  $\pi$  is a plane, and  $S_2$  is an irreducible quadric surface. Then, since, by Lemma 3.1(1), a conic curve passes through at most 6 nodes of  $V_4$ , and  $S_2$  has at most

one node, we have  $\#|\text{Sing}(V_4) \cap \text{Sing}(H_1 \cap A_3)| \leq 7$ , and hence this yields a contradiction. Now, suppose that  $H_1 \cap A_3 = \pi \cup \hat{\pi} \cup \bar{\pi}$ , where  $\pi$ ,  $\hat{\pi}$ , and  $\bar{\pi}$  are planes. Note that  $\text{Sing}(V_4) \subset H_1 \cap A_3$ . Then, by  $\#|\text{Sing}(V_4)| \geq 14$ , we assume that  $\pi \neq \hat{\pi} \neq \bar{\pi}$ ; otherwise, the quartic  $V_4$  contains a plane in  $H_1 \cap A_3$ . Then, since  $\#|\text{Sing}(V_4) \cap \text{Sing}(H_1 \cap A_3)| \geq 8$ , and  $\text{Sing}(V_4) \subset H_1 \cap A_3$ , by Lemma 3.1, the quartic  $V_4$  must contain a plane in  $H_1 \cap A_3$ .

If  $n = 2$ , then, we assume that  $Z_3$  is an irreducible cubic; otherwise, we obtain the statements (3), and (4). Moreover, we assume that  $Z_3 \cap A_2$  is irreducible; otherwise, we obtain the statements (1), (2), and (3). Then, we get the statement (5), or the quartic  $V_4$  contains the quadric surface,  $H_1 \cap B_2$ , in  $\mathbb{P}^3 \cong H_1$ , where the quadric  $B_2$  is defined by the equation  $b_2 = 0$ . As before, if  $m = 3$ , then the quartic  $V_4$  must contain a plane. Thus, we assume that  $m = 2$ . Then  $n = m = 2$ , and hence the nodal quartic  $V_4$  is defined by an equation of the form

$$(3.1) \quad h_1 z_3 + a_2 b_2 + c_2 d_2 + e_4 = 0,$$

where  $h_1, z_3, a_2, b_2, c_2, d_2$  and  $e_4$  are homogeneous polynomials of degree 1, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2 and 4 in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , respectively, such that  $S_k \subset \{h_1 z_3 = 0\} \cap \{a_2 b_2 = 0\} \cap \{c_2 d_2 = 0\}$ . Since  $S_k$  is a non-degenerate surface, and it is contained in the intersection of two quadratic hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Therefore, the surface  $S_k$  is a 2-fold rational normal scroll in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  (in this case,  $Z_3 = H \cup Q$ , where  $H$  is a hyperplane in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , and  $Q$  is an irreducible quadratic hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ ), or the surface  $S_k$  is a del Pezzo surface of degree 4.  $\square$

#### 4. Proof of Theorem 1.5

By our assumption, there is a hyperplane in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  containing all the nodes of a nodal quartic hypersurface  $V_4$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Therefore, if  $V_4$  is factorial, then, by the equivalent condition (4) in Section 2, it must have at most 20 nodes because  $h^0(\mathbb{P}^3, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^3}(3)) = 20$ .

Recall that a nodal quartic hypersurface  $V_4$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  is factorial if any surface in  $V_4$  is the complete intersection of  $V_4$  with a hypersurface of  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . By Theorem 1.3 in [17], we assume that  $14 \leq \#|\text{Sing}(V_4)| \leq 20$ . Also, by our assumption and Lemma 3.6, the quartic  $V_4$  is factorial if it does not contain any of cubic surfaces, and non-degenerate quartic surfaces, and non-degenerate irreducible sextic surfaces. From now on, we will prove that the quartic  $V_4$  does not contain any of cubic surfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , and non-degenerate quartic surfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , and non-degenerate irreducible sextic surfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ .

At first, suppose that  $V_4$  contains no a surface of degree  $r$ ,  $r \leq 2$ , and a cubic surface  $S_3$  is contained in  $V_4$ . Then we have  $S_3 \not\subset \mathbb{P}^3$ ; otherwise, one can find a hyperplane  $H_1$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  containing  $S_3$ , and hence, the quartic  $V_4$  must contain the plane,  $\overline{(V_4 \cap H_1) \setminus S_3}$ , and this contradicts our assumption. Also, we assume that  $S_3$  is irreducible; otherwise, the quartic  $V_4$  contains a plane in  $S_3$ . Then the cubic  $S_3$  is a variety of minimal degree. Since  $S_3 \subset \mathbb{P}^4$ , by [11, Theorem 1], the cubic  $S_3$  is a 2-fold rational normal scroll and hence, the

cubic  $S_3$  can be written as the intersection of three quadratic hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , i.e.,  $S_3 = Q_{21} \cap Q_{22} \cap Q_{23}$ , where  $Q_{21}$ ,  $Q_{22}$ , and  $Q_{23}$  are linearly independent irreducible quadratic hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Then we have  $Q_{21} \cap V_4 = S_3 \cup T_5$ , where  $T_5$  is a quintic surface. By Lemma 3.6, the quintic  $T_5$  must be reducible. Then, the quartic  $V_4$  contains a plane in  $T_5$ , or an irreducible quadric surface in  $T_5$ , and hence this contradicts our assumption.

From now, suppose that  $V_4$  contains no a surface of degree  $r$ ,  $r \leq 3$ , and a non-degenerate quartic surface  $S_4$  is contained in  $V_4$ . Then, we assume that  $S_4$  is irreducible; otherwise,  $V_4$  contains a plane in  $S_4$ , or an irreducible quadric surface in  $S_4$ , and hence this contradicts our assumption. Then,  $S_4$  is a non-degenerate irreducible surface of degree 4 in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Furthermore, by Lemma 3.6 (4), the quartic  $S_4$  can be written as the intersection of two quadratic hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , i.e.,  $S_4 = Q_{21} \cap Q_{22}$ , where  $Q_{21}$ , and  $Q_{22}$  are linearly independent irreducible quadratic hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Since  $V_4$  contains no surface of degree  $r$ ,  $r \leq 3$ , we have  $Q_{21} \cap V_4 = S_4 \cup S'_4$ . Here  $S'_4$  is a non-degenerate irreducible surface of degree 4 in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ ; if a hyperplane  $Y$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  contains the quartic  $S'_4$ , then  $S'_4 \subset Y \cap Q_{21}$ , and hence this yields a contradiction. Then, by the equation (3.1), the quartic  $V_4$  should be defined by an equation of the form

$$h_1 z_3 + q_{21} b_2 + q_{22} d_2 + e_4 = 0,$$

where  $h_1$ ,  $z_3$ , and  $e_4$  are homogeneous polynomials of degree 1, 3, and 4 in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , respectively, such that  $S_4 \cup S'_4 \subset \{z_3 = 0\}$ , and  $q_{2j}$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ ,  $b_2$ , and  $d_2$  are quadratic homogeneous polynomials in  $\mathbb{P}^4$  such that  $Q_{2j}$  is given by the equation  $q_{2j} = 0$ , and  $S'_4 = Q_{21} \cap \{d_2 = 0\}$ . Note that  $Q_{21} \cap V_4 \subseteq Q_{21} \cap \{h_1 z_3 = 0\}$ . However, since  $S_4$ , and  $S'_4$  are irreducible, we have  $S_4 \cup S'_4 \not\subseteq Q_{21} \cap \{h_1 z_3 = 0\}$ , and hence this yields a contradiction.

Finally, suppose that  $V_4$  contains no a surface of degree  $r$ ,  $r \leq 4$ , and a non-degenerate irreducible sextic surface  $S_6$  is contained in  $V_4$ . Then, by Lemma 3.6, the sextic  $S_6$  lives in some quadratic hypersurface  $Q_2$  in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ . Then we have  $Q_2 \cap V_4 = S_6 \cup T_2$ , where  $T_2$  is a quadric surface, and hence the quartic  $V_4$  contains a plane in  $T_2$ , or the irreducible quadric surface  $T_2$ . This contradicts our assumption.

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